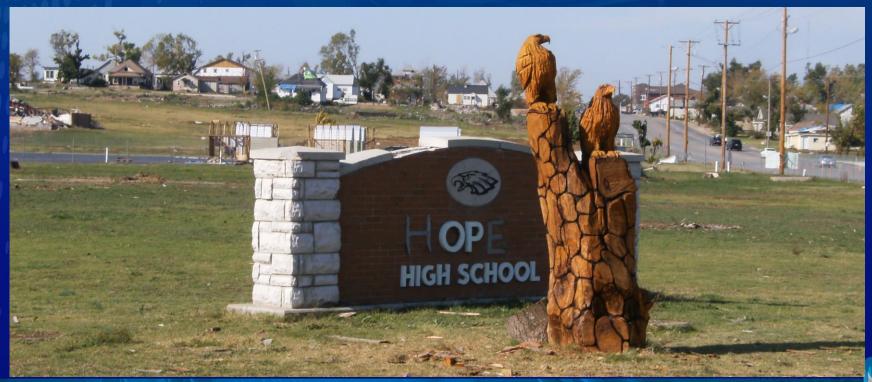# Chapter 9: Understanding and Characterizing the Social Community

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Introduction

- Achieving community resilience is a social process
- The purpose of this chapter is to provide context and tools to guide the planning team in understanding and characterizing the social community

Social Institutions

- Step 2 – Understand the Situation
- Requires identifying these drivers and how they interact with each other and the built environment
- These institutions should be specifically defined for individual communities

Social Capital and Community Engagement

- In implementing the methodology, it is important to identify and to draw upon a community's social capital

- Social capital is represented by social networks, associations, and the reciprocity and trust generated by them among individuals, groups, and communities

- It enhances a community's ability to work toward collective goals—such as planning for resilience

- Step 1 – Form a Collaborative Planning Team

- Step 2 – Understand the Situation

Social Vulnerability

- Not all people use community systems and/or have access to community systems in the same ways

- It is important to identify populations who are most vulnerable

- Step 2 – Understand the Situation

- Incorporate the perspectives and needs of these populations in the planning process

Links between Social Institutions and the Built Environment

- Social institutions rely on the built environment, and some rely on it more heavily than others

- Step 2 – Understand the Situation

- Examples of how the social institutions rely on the built environment

- The tables presented in this chapter offer ways for communities to consider these linkages to support the process of planning for resilience